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Eastern Illinois University

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

January 27, 2004 ♦ **TUESDAY**



Can they overcome?

The road has proven to be one of the Panther men's basketball team's biggest foes.

Page 10 SPORTS



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY CARLY MULLADY

Heather Beckner (left), junior psychology major, watches TV with roommate Lynn Petrowski, a junior finance major, Monday night in the living room of their house. Many off-campus houses and apartments are being rented and leased out right now.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

An Illinois Department of Transportation plow truck travels down 18th Street just south of Lincoln Avenue looking for patches of ice.

Landlords are ready for tenants

Michael Schroeder
CITY REPORTER

This is the season to find shelter not only because of the snow and cold but also because it is lease signing time.

Many apartments and houses have been taken or are in the process of being shown to prospective residents for next year.

Melissa Phillips, a property manager of Unique Properties said students need to "get going" because Unique Properties is quite busy with showings. This includes Millennium, which is filled, and the new apartment complex on Ninth Street, behind the Citgo.

The new complex has a few apartments left and, overall, about

20 to 25 properties left in the area, but all the premium ones are nearly gone, Phillips said.

Ed Brankey, owner of Eastern Illinois Properties, agreed with Phillips.

"All of the better properties were snapped up in the fall semester," he said. "The earlier you rent, the better the quality."

While these two properties are filling up quickly, there is no need to panic. There are still plenty of options for students.

Jim Wood, property manager and part-owner of Wood Rentals, said he had just begun renting apartments.

"Many landlords started renting last semester, but that is not my philosophy," he said.

Wood Rentals, whose properties include Brittany Ridge, rent all through the semester and even into summer, Wood said.

"(Students) should be looking now, but it is not yet time to panic: prime property right by campus is gone, but plenty is left elsewhere," he said.

University Court, located on the southwest corner of Ninth Street and Roosevelt Avenue, also has some apartments left.

Ali McIntire, a desk clerk at University Court, said they are not filling up right now because they are only reserving units for people currently residing at University Court.

"We already have a ton of appointments for new people in February," she said. "People need to get going though."

The lowdown on how to lease

By Mike Schroeder
CITY REPORTER

When signing a lease for an apartment, the specifics and law details can be a bit confusing and overwhelming.

Instead of just signing the lease, without a lot of knowledge, a student can go to the director of Student Legal Services, Stephen Davis.

Davis is located in Room 318 of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Union. There he can look over a student's prospective lease and let him know whether it is a good lease or not.

Because this service is covered by student fees, there is no additional cost.

Davis warns of several areas for students to look out for. One of those is making sure roommates know each other because most apartments leases are joint.

This means that if a roommate doesn't show up or leaves,

SEE LEASE ♦ Page 6



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

Larry Shobe, an Eastern grounds gardener, shovels the sidewalk outside of the biological sciences building Monday afternoon. Shobe said the grounds crew shovels handicap ramps and areas close to stairs by hand.

Icy weather challenging grounds crew

By Julie Bourque
CAMPUS REPORTER

Snow storms come along with winter, and so do wet socks, shoes, pants and everything else. But Eastern's grounds crew has been working 12-hour days to keep the wetness to a minimum.

Working on mother nature's command, the grounds crew team must hold a very flexible schedule. This recent snowfall has brought Eastern's nine grounds crew members to work at 3 a.m. both Sunday morning and Monday morning.

"We're just trying to keep the parking lots and sidewalks cleaned up for the students to get through to class," equipment operator Joe Jones said. "With so many spots to keep clean though, it's pretty easy to miss some."

John Collins, superintendent of grounds, said the crew is broken down into specified routes for faster clearing. Some members may be assigned parking lots, while others are assigned aisles in the quads and sidewalks.

Everything is dependent upon when the snow falls and the amount received.

"We do assign specific areas, but it can always change," Collins said.

"We usually try to get the lots cleared first, so if we have a lot of snow it may take more workers to do that job."

Charleston is ahead of schedule for its 17-inch yearly average snowfall according to Dalias Price, local weather observer and former Eastern professor of geography and weather.

Price said Charleston normally receives one inch in November, four inches in December, five inches in January, four inches in February and three inches in March.

This year, however, Charleston received one-tenth of an inch in November, six inches in December and three inches in January so far, with expectations for more in the next few days.

To remove the snow, the nine grounds crew members are supplied with salt and sand to melt the ice, as well as shovels and snow plows.

Collins said funds for supplies have been tight this year because of cutbacks. No specific budget is set, but the amount set aside for supplies is less this year than last.

Despite the decrease in funds, the workers have gotten their jobs done so far this year and they have made this campus an easier and safer place to walk.

Students believe, for the most part, Eastern's grounds crew members are fulfilling their job expectations.

"I think the workers do a really good job on clearing the sidewalks," said Tim Stolz, a senior speech communications major. "They had everything

More inside

♦ Curious about what it would take to cancel class?

Page 6

SEE WEATHER ♦ Page 6

Tuesday
Snow



26° 11°
HIGH LOW

Wednesday
Sunny



32° 24°
HIGH LOW

Thursday
Snow/showers



37° 28°
HIGH LOW

Friday
Partly cloudy



33° 30°
HIGH LOW

Saturday
Mostly cloudy



35° 35°
HIGH LOW

Sunday
Rain/snow

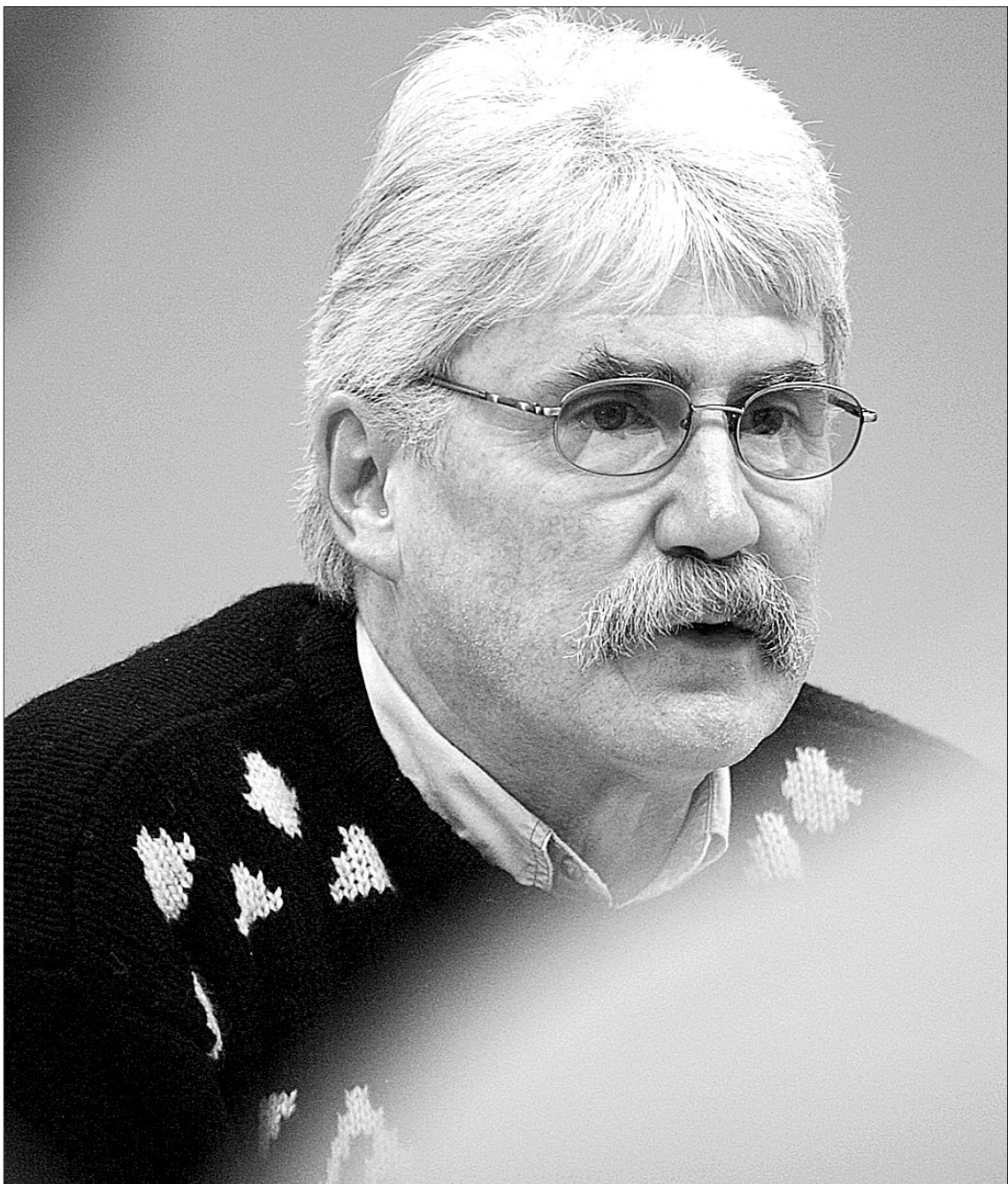


38° 17°
HIGH LOW

Monday
Partly cloudy



34° 22°
HIGH LOW



David Carpenter speaks during the Faculty Senate meeting last Tuesday in the Booth Library Conference Room. The athletic task force will make a presentation to the Faculty Senate today at 2 p.m. in the conference room.

Funding to be focus of task force address

By Kevin Sampier
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

A university presidential task force in charge of finding alternate ways to fund Eastern athletics will give a presentation Tuesday to The Faculty Senate.

Gail Richard, department chair of communication disorders and sciences, chaired the task force that was created at the request of Eastern President Lou Hencken.

Faculty Senate Chair David Carpenter said Richard will make the presentation Tuesday.

Richard gave the same presentation Friday to members of The Council of University Planning and Budget. The presentation gave several alternative ways to generate funding for the athletics department in lieu of using state appropriated

funds.

The recommendations made by the task force, which was composed of faculty members and several students, will be given to the Board of Trustees. The BOT will then make a decision on the recommendations.

Carpenter said the composition of the Council of University Planning and Budget will also be discussed during the meeting. The senate made a recommendation to lessen the number of members on the council, which the council rejected.

"The CUPB rejected the senate's proposal to make that council smaller," Carpenter said. "The senate's executive committee wants to meet with the CUPB's executive committee to try to work out some compromise to that issue," but he

will need senate approval before the meeting can take place, Carpenter said.

A proposed bylaw change is also on the senate's agenda, which, if passed, would change the wording for the Council of Faculty Research.

Barbara Lawrence, vice chair of The Faculty Senate, said if the change is passed it will not change the way the senate operates.

The senate's constitution requires the Council on Faculty Research to elect its members, but the bylaw says members should be appointed. If passed, the proposed bylaw change would make the bylaws wording match the wording of the constitution, Lawrence said.

The Faculty Senate will meet at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Booth Library Conference Room 4440.

Two blood drives will occur at Andrews Hall

By Diane Reid
STAFF WRITER

Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity is sponsoring two on-campus blood drives this week. The blood drives will be held from 1-6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday in the basement of Andrews Hall.

Representatives of the American Red Cross will be taking donations from all potential donors who meet the health requirements. The national blood supply is currently very low.

"Inventory is improving, but right now, nationally, we are experiencing a critical shortage," said Tracy Torbeck, local representative of the American Red Cross. "In some cases, surgeries have been postponed and even canceled because of (the blood shortage)."

This drive has been in the works for a few weeks.

Larry Ward, president of Eastern's Blood Drive Committee, said it takes about a

month to get everything set in motion. The month is used to prepare the event and reserve the space.

Besides reserving space, the committee buys t-shirts and food for bigger blood drives.

"We are expecting to have about 45 donors each day, but it is not usual for us to have 75 per day," Torbeck said. "It all depends on how students and faculty will handle the weather and if they would wish to come out."

"We like to keep a 5-6 day supply of blood on hand, in case of a catastrophe. At this moment, we have less than a one-half day supply."

Torbeck said that in the past two weeks, the American Red Cross has had 3,800 people donate.

It takes around 45 minutes total to give blood, including the time involved in review of health history papers, actual donation and recovery time.

Booth Library offering free viewing of Al Jazeera film

By Brittany Robson
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

A free screening of the film Al Jazeera is being offered at Booth Library Tuesday.

The movie is part of the library's Film Series that was started a couple of years ago.

"It is a way to attract people into the library," said David Bell, assistant professor of reference services at Booth.

"We have an in-house committee that meets before every semester to discuss and plan out films we want to show and what dates."

The committee shows approximately seven or eight movies throughout the semester. Bell said attendance has gradually increased since the series began.

"We have two showing times so we usually have about 30-40 people combined from both showings," he said.

Bell expects a fairly good attendance for Al Jazeera.

"I think the film is a really interesting topic," Bell said. "The topic is timely because we (the U.S.) are in Arabic countries right now."

Al Jazeera, which means "The Island" in Arabic, was founded in 1996 as the first 24-hour news station in the Arabic community. It is compared to the United States' CNN.

"It (the film) shows the rise of 24-hour television and how Sept. 11 and world news is reported from Arabic

"I think the film is a really interesting topic. The topic is timely because we (the United States) are in Arabic countries right now"

—David Bell, assistant professor of reference services at Booth

perspective," Bell said.

The film combines news footage, excerpts from Al Jazeera programs and interviews with executives, anchors and journalists.

According to a press release, "The film explores the paradoxes that emerge between the apparent orthodoxy of Arab societies and the journalistic freedom flaunted by Al Jazeera." Bell said Al Jazeera was little known in the U.S. until Sept. 11, when the notoriety of the "Arab CNN" has exploded. Since then awareness of Al Jazeera has grown during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The screenings are scheduled for 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. in room 3202, and will last about an hour. For a full schedule of other film screenings and times go to the the Booth Library web site and click on "quick links."

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Editor in chief John Chambers
.....jpchambers@eiu.edu
Managing editor Matt Meinheit
.....mmeinheit@yahoo.com
News editor Matt Williams
.....mmwilliams1220@aol.com
Associate news editor Carly Mullady
.....loislayne83@aol.com
Editorial page editor Jennifer Chiariello
.....cuic7@eiu.edu
Activities editor Brittany Robson
.....Peaches51085@hotmail.com
Administration editor Kevin Sampier
.....k_sampier@hotmail.com
Campus editor Evan Hill
.....cueah1@eiu.edu
City editor Jessica Youngs
.....jessyou10@hotmail.com
Student gov. editor Brian O'Malley
.....cubpo@eiu.edu
Senior reporter Tim Martin
.....noles_acc@yahoo.com
Photo editors Colin McAuliffe
.....colinsarcasm@hotmail.com
.....Stephen Haas
.....stephen@haasphotography.com

Sports editor Matthew Stevens
.....danville1999@yahoo.com
Associate Sports editor Mike Gilbert
.....mikeygibs@aol.com
Verge editor Dan Valenziano
.....cudwv@eiu.edu
Associate Verge editor Holly Henschen
.....hhenschen9@hotmail.com
Online editor Matt Willis
.....cumcw1@eiu.edu
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Business manager Betsy Mellott
Asst. business manager Lindsay Moffett
Student business manager Marie Rehr
Editorial adviser John Ryan
.....cfjmr1@eiu.edu
Publisher John David Reed
.....cfjdr@eiu.edu
Press supervisor Johnny Bough

PHONE: 217-581-2812 (fax 581-2923)

EMAIL: jpchambers@eiu.edu

NIGHT STAFF:

Night editor Karen Kirr
News Design Niki Jensen
Sports Design Aaron Seidlitz
.....Matt Meinheit
Night Photo editor Stephen Haas
Copy editors Yvette Cozad
.....Nina Samii
Night News editor Matt Williams
.....Carly Mullady

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CORRECTIONS

The date for the Roc's Black Front Chili Jam benefit was incorrectly reported in Monday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News*. The event, originally scheduled for last Sunday, Jan. 25, was canceled Saturday. The event has been rescheduled for Feb. 29.

SUGGESTIONS

If you have any suggestions or ideas for articles you would like to see in *The News*, feel free to contact us at 581-2812 or jpchambers@eiu.edu



Monetary grants aid Eastern college, statewide education

◆ *College of Education receives \$286,000 from national grant program*

By Brandy Headley
STAFF WRITER

The “Improving Teacher Quality State Grant Program,” authorized under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, helps to support professional development activities for United States teachers.

The Illinois State Board of Education received 97.5 percent of the federal money marked for the state and distributed the funds as grants to elementary and secondary schools.

Don Sevener, director of communication for the IBHE, said the remaining allotment went to several universities such as Northeastern Illinois University and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. The funding focuses on teacher improvement for middle grade-levels because they do not require teacher certification.

Sevener said the grant program will attempt to require middle level teacher certification and improve curriculum and skills for teachers.

Eastern’s College of Education and Professional Studies submitted proposals for funding to the IBHE and received \$286,000.

Bob Chesnut, interim director of grants and research at Eastern, explained in an e-mail the money was received for three projects:

- ◆ One project will help school principals, especially new principals, learn improved ways to support the teaching activities of their school staff.
- ◆ Another project aims to improve science instruction in low-performing and low-income schools in rural Illinois.
- ◆ The third project will allow Eastern to continue helping school districts in east-central and south-eastern Illinois attract and retain teachers.

Nick Osborne, chair of the Department of Educational Administration, will use the largest portion of the grants, \$110,000, to help school principals through instruction and monitoring.

The second largest grant, \$95,000, will expand teachers’ knowledge base and development within the fields of math and science.

Marylin Lisowski, professor in the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education, is working with

Tracking the Money Flow

- ◆ **\$286,000** was recently granted to Eastern’s College of Education
- ◆ The money will be put toward three projects:
 - \$110,000** will go toward helping school principles support and encourage beneficial teaching activities
 - \$95,000** will go toward improving math and science education in low-performing and low-income schools
 - \$81,000** will go toward helping local schools attract and retain teachers through the Regional Beginning Teacher Induction Program

Robert Williams, an SIU-Edwardsville faculty member, in training math and science teams from 15 different low-performing and low-income high schools such as Paris, Casey West, East Richland and Cumberland.

Lisowski said \$2,000 to \$4,000 will be spent on scientific equipment such as Probreware and digital cameras. The remaining money will cover books, field travel and various other expenses.

The third grant, \$81,000, will be administered by Douglas Bower, associate dean of Educational and Professional Studies, to provide continuing support to beginning teachers.

Eastern’s Regional Beginning Teacher Induction Program will provide monitoring and professional development to individuals in the early years of their teaching careers.

“We were fortunate to have three grants funded,” Chesnut said. “The College of Education especially has reason to be pleased.”



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Soaring on a sled

Forrest Rotramel, 6, of Charleston, gets a bit of airtime off a bump on the sledding hill at Kiwanis Park Monday afternoon. Rotramel went out to the park with his friends and his father, Chris, who got off of work early to take the boys out.

Local group bestows prestigious honor

◆ *Charleston Chamber of Commerce selects Diplomat of the Year*

By Blake Boldt
STAFF WRITER

Tiffany Smith was surprised to hear her name called for the Diplomat of the Year during the Charleston Chamber of Commerce’s annual dinner Saturday night.

“I wasn’t expecting to win,” Smith said. “I wasn’t aware that I was receiving the award, but I’m very proud.”

Smith is a member of the chamber committee that meets monthly to discuss future projects, promote the chamber and consider volunteer projects.

Volunteering is very important, Smith said.

“I feel it’s beneficial to give back to the community,” she said.

The diplomats of Charleston choose a winner from its member-

ship each year. The group consists of 30 members who attempt to better the community.

According to Paul Mejdrich, the president of the Chamber of Commerce and co-owner of E.L. Kracker’s, the Diplomat of the Year award is a very prestigious honor.

“The diplomats volunteer and work after hours,” Mejdrich said.

He said the diplomats visit with the chamber members to communicate about the community’s needs.

“The diplomats are often the unsung heroes of the community,” said past-President Jill Nilsen, vice president of external relations at Eastern.

The main goal of the group is to volunteer at community events that are beneficial to the economy and the people of Charleston, Mejdrich said.

Smith has been employed at Innovative Staff Solutions in Mattoon for three years. She began in the sales department of

the company.

For the past year and a half, she has worked as a professional recruiter. Her efforts allow opportunities for people to be placed in jobs that suit their qualifications, she said.

In November, Smith took a position on the chamber’s board. Her term will be in effect until the end of 2005.

“(Smith) certainly went above and beyond the call of duty,” Cindy Titus, the chamber’s executive director said.

She said all of the candidates were deserving of the award; however, Smith’s work as the chair of the chamber’s committee was one of the main reasons that she was honored.

Nilsen said Smith has been a very enthusiastic part of the community and the chamber.

She added that Smith is actively involved in all of the chamber’s functions, including Business After Hours and the Business Exposition.

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EDITORIAL

Show needed kindness to arts center

Dear Gov. Blagojevich,

Please allow Eastern to receive money for renovation to the Doudna Fine Arts Center sooner than later. If the university doesn't receive the funding for the project soon, irreversible harm will be done to the students and school.

We understand the state's budget is pretty bleak to say the least, but it is incomprehensible to ignore the importance of this project to Eastern.

While the university waits for the funding to move on with the project, it hemorrhages money. Thousands of dollars are lost each week to rent a temporary facility while the existing building sits empty, waiting for construction crews to convert it into the future of Eastern fine arts.

If the funds are not approved, Eastern will have to reconsider the project. Plans will have to be redrawn and sacrifices will have to be made. Amenities that would help Eastern's faculty perform its job more efficiently and increase its productivity could be cut. The physical size of the classrooms could also shrink, which keeps overcrowded rooms a problem.

By waiting to approve funds for the project, the state is only hurting itself. The burden of the thousands of dollars Eastern loses each week while it waits for the necessary funds to be approved will be past onto students. Some students might not be able to afford increased tuition costs, which might force them out of school.

We remember a candidate who ran a platform on the importance of education, but now we know a governor who slashes budgets and expects institutions of higher education to do more with less.

Will holding back funds for Doudna renovations destroy Eastern? No. But it definitely won't help the university in its goals to provide students with an affordable, high-quality education.

We're not asking for any special treatment or to have the needs of anyone else ignored. We're only asking that you remember us.

Eastern is home to the minds of over 10,000 students and over 1,600 dedicated faculty and staff members; all of whom are worthy of the best this state has to offer.

Sincerely,

The *The Daily Eastern News* editorial board

The editorial is the majority opinion of the *Daily Eastern News* editorial board.

OPINION

Appreciate the winter weather



Matthew Stevens

Sports editor and semi-monthly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*

Stevens also is a sophomore journalism major

He can be reached at danville1999@yahoo.com

Finally, it came and God bless that it did. As of Sunday afternoon, Eastern's campus was under a blanket of snow and nothing could have made me happier.

I've heard from my circle of friends that Eastern looks better under a lot of snow and I have to agree.

However, I do enjoy the cultural difference snow brings. Being from Wisconsin and coming back to school in the Lincoln state, one would think that there wouldn't be a difference between two states that are right next to each other and have cold weather.

I'm here to tell you there is and at the very least, I find it hilarious.

A friend of mine who lived in LaSalle-Peru and got a job at the *Green Bay Press Gazette*. Needless to say, it was a culture shock for him but he took it in stride, saying, "It's not the heat that'll kill you up here, it's the humidity."

He's much more adaptable than most.

I'd like to take this time to point out the environmental differences of living in a state up north:

1. If you can see two feet in front of you, it hasn't snowed nearly enough and it obviously hasn't reached the point of big flakes of snow.

2. I love to talk to people when it's about 18-20 degrees and hear them complain about being

"Finally, it's amazing how people down here don't know how to park a vehicle. A little trip for drivers in the Illinois area: just because the parking lines aren't visible, that doesn't mean they don't exist."

incredibly cold. For all those people, these were the temperatures (without wind chill) in my home town of Oconomowoc, Wis. last week: -1; 6.8; -6; 1.4; 8.6; 8.6 (wow, it's a heat wave). Thanks to Eastern Geology professor Belayet Khan. The first concept he taught me in Weather in Climate is how people perceive temperature. It's my belief people in east central Illinois would be happier people at school, work and home if they just accepted the idea that 20 degrees is a January paradise in itself.

3. I'm in college and I don't have to shovel a lick of snow. Think about it. Even though my father will deny the idea that I ever picked up a shovel (hell, he

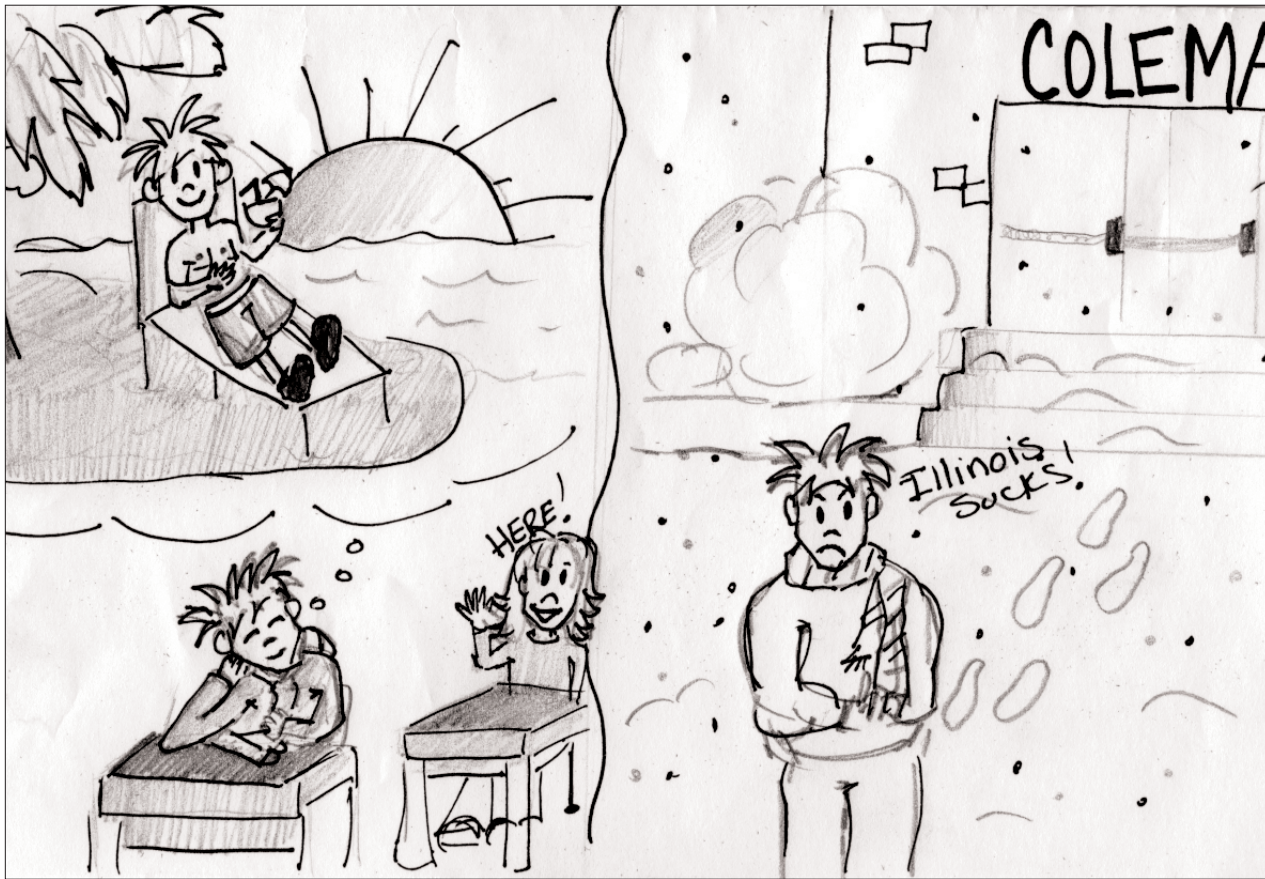
bought a snow blower when I left for college), I can't believe the satisfaction that came Sunday afternoon with the realization of not having to haul white stuff hit me.

4. People depend on the plow system here at Eastern as a means of being able to walk to class. Because walking through snow drifts is a horrible idea in itself. First, I can't stand the plow people. They provide an excellent service but they were the people every morning I would shake my fist at after shoveling. It was like clockwork; I would finally get done shoveling and the plow would brush the slush back on to my driveway. Plow people do provide a service but it shouldn't be relied on.

5. Finally, it's amazing how people down here don't know how to park a vehicle. A little tip for drivers in the Illinois area: just because the parking lines aren't visible, that doesn't mean they don't exist. Parking on a 45-degree angle simply because that's how you slid into the stop is unacceptable and deserves a towing.

You will certainly recognize me from this piece or the head shot provided, and I'd like to take this opportunity to beg the reader not to complain about the cold, snow or wind chill. It just doesn't do any good. Trust me, you guys get the better end of the winter weather bargain from mother nature by living in Illinois.

Cartoon by Gia Hyos



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Helping others to battle snow

I think most students take it for granted that they can simply go to classes when they want to. However, for students like myself who use a wheelchair to get around, sometimes just getting to class can be a problem. For example, Monday morning, as you all were aware, three inches of snow was on the ground. Unfortunately, around the times of my morning classes that much snow covered many of the sidewalks as well. When you use a wheel-

chair you must stick to the paths created for you by paved surfaces. When even those areas are reduced due to snow blockages, you really begin to wonder if you can find a way to your class. The paths that I did take could hardly be called clear. It took me twice as long to get around, and when I showed up to classes late I was exhausted and my gloves were wet and cold. However, several students, all complete strangers except one,

helped save the day for me. One helped me when I was totally stuck and could not even move and another helped drag my chair through a rather nasty snowdrift. These people sacrificed their time as well as risked falling down by helping push and drag me

through the snow. I want to thank them for doing such a nice thing. It is a good feeling to know that such nice people are among us every-day on campus.

Jaymie Krone,
junior biological sciences major

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be less than 250 words and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. Depending on space constraints, we may edit letters, so keep it concise. Letters can be sent to *The Daily Eastern News* at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to jpchambers@eiu.edu.

Eastern representatives to hold Eastern Day in Springfield

◆ *Four buses will head to the capitol building at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 19*

By Brian O'Malley
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The eighth annual Eastern Day will have faculty, staff and students going to Springfield to make Eastern's presence known.

Jill Nilsen, vice president for External Relations, said the event will be held on Feb. 19 and the number of faculty, staff and students attending could be up to 150.

"It's really an exciting day," Nilsen said.

Four buses will leave Eastern at 7:30 a.m. and head to the capitol building in Springfield, where Eastern has reserved the first floor to give presentations on the university, Nilsen said.

"We have reserved the whole first floor of the capitol building and are going to put up displays and pictures to give a presentation," Nilsen said.

Eastern representatives will also be lobbying to legislatures on ways they can support Eastern on issues concerning money and students.

"It heightens awareness of Eastern," Nilsen said. "It makes our presence known."

Last year, 125 representatives from Eastern came to the event and received a positive reaction from state legislatures, Nilsen said.

"We did receive very positive feedback from legislatures," Nilsen said. "They certainly become aware that we are present."

In the first six years of this event, it was held in March or April, but last year it was scheduled in February, which turned out to be a better time of the year to talk to legislators.

"(February) seemed to be a better time," Nilsen said. "More legislators were available to talk to."

Nilsen said the students going to the event will be responsible for talking to teachers about classes they will miss.

"I always try to remind the students that their first responsibility is classes," Nilsen said. "If the professor feels that students should be in class, then that's where the students got to be."

Nilsen said Student Action Team members, Civil Service members, student ambassadors, deans of colleges and department chairs will be



Chris Lauzen, State Senator from the 25th district, talks with Bill Davidson Nov. 5 outside of Lauzen's office in the State Capitol Building in Springfield. Representatives from Eastern will be traveling to the capital again in February for "Eastern Day."

among those representing Eastern.

In the past, attendants have driven themselves rather than take the bus.

"Some people will be driving their own cars," Nilsen said.

A letter will be sent to the legislators who represent areas that attending Eastern students are from. The letter will ask the legislator to come and greet the student,

Nilsen said. A jazz band will play during lunchtime and Nilsen said it will be good entertainment.

"They are a very talented group of individuals," Nilsen said.

Kyle Donash, chair of the Student Senate Academic Affairs Committee and Student Action Team member, said this will be his second year going to Eastern Day.

"It's saying, 'Eastern's here and

we care about higher education,'" Donash said.

At last year's event, Donash said he contacted the senator from his hometown and gave him a tour of the event and introduced him to Nilsen and President Lou Hencken.

Donash said this year he will lobby on issues having to do with funding and student fees.

"We have to go there and say 'we

need the money' because otherwise we're going to have to increase student fees," Donash said about certain areas on campus that have been in need of money.

Donash said the event benefits Eastern in making the university known to the state government.

"Last year, we definitely knew that our presence was felt," Donash said.



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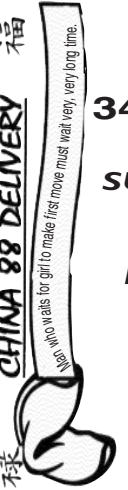
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STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Incumbent’s health sparks fiery debate in state congressional race

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. (AP) — A challenger’s accusation that long-time U.S. Rep. Lane Evans is unfit for another term because of Parkinson’s disease has touched off a rancorous start to a U.S. House race that won’t go to voters for more than nine months.

Evans, a Rock Island Democrat who has battled the neurological disorder since 1995, denies Republican Andrea Zinga’s allegation, which also has sparked debate over whether health is fair game on the campaign trail.

“Should it surprise us that this kind of boundary has been crossed? I’m afraid not,” said George Gordon, an Illinois State University political science professor.

Zinga, a former television news anchor and reporter, raised questions about Evans’ health as she

launched her campaign during a series of news conferences across the 17th district, which covers 23 counties in western and central Illinois.

She claims the disease has slowed the 11-term congressman, preventing him from spending enough time in the district to understand all its issues and from working in Washington to solve them.

“As the disease advances, his sheer ability to do those things is going to be further diminished,” said Zinga, who is unopposed in the March primary and will square off with Evans in November.

Evans said that medication and exercise are controlling the disease, which he said has made him move a little slower but has not affected his job performance.

“He’s upset about it and feels

that it shouldn’t come up because he’s able to do his job. The election should be about issues. It certainly shows a lack of ideas on her part,” said Steve Vetzner, a spokesman for Evans.

Parkinson’s support groups criticized Zinga, arguing that health should not be a campaign issue because most victims of the disease continue to work effectively for 20 years or more.

That includes several members of Congress, including the late Morris Udall of Arizona and Joe Skeen of New Mexico, who died last month after a long battle with the disease, said Jeff Martin, chairman of the board of the Parkinson’s Action Network.

Political observers said the contentious race is just another example of an ongoing trend in American politics.

Police chase leads in double homicide

PARIS, Ill. (AP) — Investigators were tracking down leads but had made no arrests in the killings of a man and woman whose bodies were found along a country road, the Edgar County sheriff said Monday.

The bodies of Amber Quinn, 28, and Adam Stewart, 23, were found Friday morning on opposite ditches along a road near Elbridge, about nine miles southeast of Paris, Sheriff Tim Crippes said. He declined to say how they were killed, except that they were not hit by a car.

“They were murdered, I can tell you that,” the sheriff said. No weapon was recovered, he said.

Quinn, of Paris, was the mother of three young boys. She had called home Thursday to tell her family she planned to go shopping in Terre Haute, Ind., her sister, Michelle Wilken, told the Tribune-Star of Terre Haute.

“Amber was very caring,” Wilken said. “She loved her children more than life itself.”

Stewart also lived in Paris and would see Quinn occasionally, said Eric Smeader, one of his friends. Quinn’s mother, Linda Mulkins, said she was not aware of a relationship between her daughter and Stewart.

More than a dozen state and local investigators were working

on the case, Crippes said.

Stewart’s car was found Friday on an unfinished bridge near the Paris High School football field. Crippes said some evidence was found in the car, but he declined to be specific.

The sheriff said authorities were not sure how long the two had been dead when their bodies were found about 7 a.m. Friday.

Homicides are rare in Edgar County, which borders Indiana. In January 1996, a man shot his estranged wife and another person to death before committing suicide, and nearly 20 years ago, a Paris couple were murdered in their home.

New study suggests carbs may be good

CHICAGO (AP) — In the midst of the low-carb craze, a new study suggests that by eating lots of carbohydrates and little fat, it is possible to lose weight without actually cutting calories — and without exercising, either.

The study was small, consisting of just 34 overweight adults who either ate the recommended diet for three months; ate the recommended diet and exercised regularly; or ate pretty much what they usually eat.

All meals were prepared for participants, who were instructed to eat as much as they wanted. They also were told to return any uneaten food, which the researchers said enabled them to calculate calorie intake.

Many doctors dispute whether people can lose weight without reducing their food intake, and at least one questioned the study’s accuracy.

But the diet is more compatible with conventional notions of healthful eating than the fatty, low-carbohydrate Atkins and South Beach diets.

Participants on the recommended diet lost about 7 pounds without cutting calories and without exercise, and almost 11 pounds with 45 minutes of stationary bike-riding four times weekly. The control group lost no weight.

The findings appear in Monday’s Archives of Internal Medicine.

Gary Foster, clinical director of the University of Pennsylvania’s Weight and Eating Disorders Program, said he suspects participants who lost weight ate less than what was reported. He said that while he recommends a low-fat, high carb diet to patients, without calorie reduction it would be “a public health disaster.”

“The whole idea that you could

By the Numbers

- 34 overweight participants
- 3 month duration
- 7 pounds lost by participants who didn’t cut calories
- 11 pounds lost by participants who regularly exercised

lose weight without reducing energy intake flies in the face of 100 years of data,” Foster said.

Lead author William Evans of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences stood by his findings.

“Calories in minus calories out does not always determine the amount of weight loss,” Evans said. “This is because we metabolize fats and carbohydrates very differently.”

American Dietetic Association spokeswoman Cindy Moore agreed and said with low-carb diets hogging the spotlight, “it may be a reminder that we can lose weight in a variety of different ways.”

Foods on the successful diets included high-fiber cereal, vegetarian chili, whole-wheat spaghetti, many fruits and vegetables, and skim milk. Daily calories totaled about 2,400, similar to participants’ usual consumption.

The control group also received prepared meals with similar calories, but the foods included sausage, scrambled eggs, macaroni and cheese, French fries, whole milk and fewer fruits and vegetables.

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5 Arm or leg
9 Goes on the fritz
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15 Teen ____
16 River of Pakistan
17 Fill beyond full
18 First name in scat
19 Bailout but-ton
20 Horse-racing financial sys-tem?
23 Dairy airs?
24 Striped ante-lope
25 Jean on the screen
28 Young newts
29 Company that makes Wite-Out
32 At full speed
33 Lotion addi-tive
34 Actor's pur-suit
35 Races hors-es to gain authority?
38 Music player, for short
39 "What time ____?"
40 Put up with
41 Receiver of many Apr. checks
42 Closely relat-ed
43 Is on the same page, so to speak
44 Gave lines to
45 Peter Fonda role

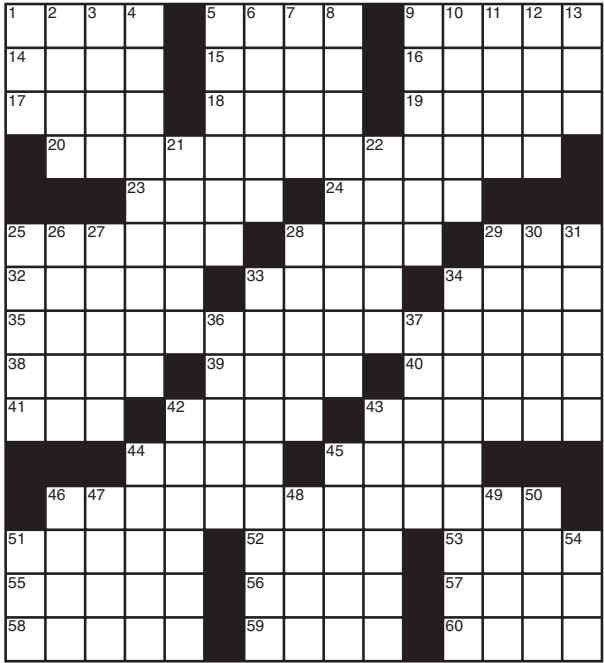
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- 46 Government support for horse-racing equipment?
51 Plant life
52 Sharer's word
53 Abbr. before ZIP code 10001
55 Oscar winner Marisa
56 Word proces-sor option
57 Toledo's lake
58 Primitive fish-ing tool
59 Comedic Laurel
60 Iron pumper's count

DOWN

- 1 Rev. Sharpton and others
2 Prejudice
3 Suffragist Carrie Chapman ____
4 Surrealistic
5 Stay out of sight
6 Runs without moving
7 Suburban tunneler
8 Great Plains Indian
9 Maniacs
10 Certain pear



Puzzle by M. Francis Vuolo

- 11 The same, in bibliogra-phies
12 Desi loved her
13 Retired speedster
21 Trailblazing Daniel
22 External
25 Pilgrim to Mecca
26 Love in l'après-midi
27 Oven appur-tenances
28 Pixie-sized
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46 Horse's foot-fall
47 Seven Hills city
48 Minor hit
49 Brontë hero-ine
50 Short cut?
51 Knox and Dix: Abbr.
54 "You bet!"

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Toddler survives stabbing attack by young mother

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A woman repeatedly stabbed her 1 1/2-year-old daughter and left her with a steak knife lodged in her back in a schoolyard, where she was found alive Monday, police said.

Tamika Fowler, 19, was charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault and related offenses in the attack on Shytaisia Shirley, police Capt. John Darby said. The toddler was hospitalized in critical condition, but was expected to survive, he said.

Bystanders found Shytaisia sitting upright in a snow bank in a west Philadelphia schoolyard with the 4-inch knife in her back early Monday and flagged down police, Darby said.

The girl was wearing jeans and a thermal shirt, but had no coat, shoes or socks, Darby said. Initially, police had said she was wearing only a diaper.

The victim was taken to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia with two stab wounds to the abdomen and one to the back, and was treated for "hypothermia issues," Darby said. Shytaisia was in critical but stable condition after undergoing surgery.

Democrats swap criticisms before primary

◆ *Candidates overcome fatigue to make final campaign stops, speeches*

NASHUA, N.H. (AP) — Playing to huge crowds of wavering voters, Democrats swapped charges of dirty tricks and elitism Monday, closing out the New Hampshire primary on a sour note before the presidential race goes national.

From coffee shops, truck stops, school gyms and country stores, the candidates took their last dose of small-state retail politicking with a collective grimace, testy and tired after a seesaw week of campaigning.

"It's close and it's closing fast," Howard Dean said, accusing his rivals of smearing him in a shadowy phone-and-mail campaign. "I need your help because we have every intention of winning the New Hampshire primary."

Most public polls gave fellow New Englander John Kerry a double-digit lead over Dean, a former Vermont governor, though at least one survey had the pair in a dead heat. Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark and Sen. Joe Lieberman of

Connecticut were trailing.

Campaign strategists said internal polls and anecdotal evidence indicated that Dean and Edwards had the most momentum in the race's final hours. New Hampshire has a storied history of upsets and surprises, largely because of a choosy electorate loaded with independents who can vote in party primaries.

"This race could still go any number of ways," said Wayne Lesperance, political science professor at New England College in Henniker, N.H. "The questions is, how far do Dean and Edwards surge?"

The answer will come from voters such as Connie Mackey of Nashua, N.H., who had a front-row seat at Dean's first event. "I wish I could have Howard Dean's heart, John Kerry's political savvy, Wes Clark's military experience and Edwards' idealism," she said.

So who will it be Tuesday? "Haven't a clue," she said with a laugh. "Don't know whose soap to buy."

The candidates were in the mood to sell, knowing the importance of a solid finish as they look toward the next stage of contests starting Feb. 3 in seven states.

After the handshake-to-handshake

search for votes in the living rooms of Iowa and New Hampshire, the candidates are headed to a series of impersonal, multistate campaigns that focus on airport rallies and TV ad buys.

Perhaps they'll get more sleep. The hotly contested early stages took a toll on the candidates, their voices raspy and no sentence safe. Dean's support of the people's right to vote became "the people's vote to right" in a tongue-twister at his first event.

Kerry buzzed the state in helicopters to remind voters of his valorous duty in Vietnam. Given his standing in polls, the Massachusetts senator was counseled by aides to ignore his rivals, but he couldn't help but question their commitment to abortion rights.

"I'm the only candidate running for president who hasn't played games, fudged around," Kerry said as he sought to solidify his advantage among women.

Dean called himself fiscally conservative, socially liberal and the one candidate willing to take tough stands. The message, geared toward New Hampshire independents, is part of a political makeover designed in the desperate hours after Iowa's caucuses, where he finished third and delivered a shrill election-night speech.

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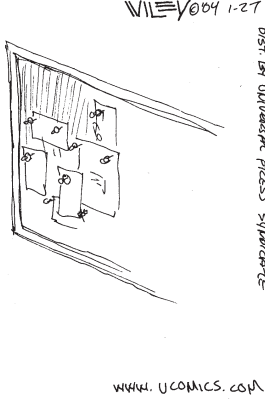
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Road, not so friendly

By John Hohenadel
SPORTS REPORTER

In the midst of a dismal season, the Eastern men's basketball team still find themselves winless on the road.

"It's not real simple right now," head coach Rick Samuels said. "Lately we have been playing the way we need to play to win on the road, but we have to be strong enough to stand the home team's second-half run."

Samuels said he thought the Panthers should have come away with wins from Iowa, Austin Peay, and Tennessee Tech.

At Iowa, the Panthers found themselves tied with the Hawkeyes with 2:49 remaining in the game. Iowa finished the Panthers off with a 11-2 run and won the game 71-62.

At Austin Peay the Panthers fell to the Governors after having a one-point lead at the half. Late in the second half, the Governors went on a 14-2 run to seal the Panthers fate with 4:13 left in the game.

Much like the Austin Peay game at Tennessee Tech, Eastern had a two-point lead at the half but couldn't overcome the disparity in free throws. The Eagles hit 26 from the line while the Panthers hit only four.

Samuels said he feels the Panthers have been improving on the road as of late, and believes they can win all their remaining road games.

At the same time, Samuels expressed the immediate need for a win.

"The next two games worry me because they're the next two," Samuels said.

The Panthers next two road games come at Samford and at Jacksonville State, which were both added to the OVC last year.

Samuels said the next two games may be tough because they have never been to either Samford or Jacksonville State.

"We don't know where our hotels are, or even how to find them," Samuels said.

As important as it is for the Panthers to get a road win, or a home win as soon as possible, Samuels thinks Murray State will be the toughest road game they



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Senior forward David Roos looks to pass after driving past a Tennessee State defender. Roos and the Panthers have yet to win a game on the road this season in eight attempts.

will have to play.

"You always have to worry about Murray State," Samuels said. "It's tough to get a win there any time."

It will be even tougher to get a win there if the Panthers are still winless in road games by the time they have to travel to Murray State.

As bad as all the losing may seem, Samuels said he sees Emmanuel Dildy growing into the position of the Panthers starting

point guard. Samuels also said Dildy plays well on the road because of his past experiences with New Mexico State.

"He's traveled before so he knows how to prepare himself for the road," Samuels said. "He has a different mentality than Patterson and Hollyfield."

If Dildy can rub some of that road mentality off on the rest of his team, the Panthers may be able to start winning on the road.

New opponents equal a pair of challenges

By Aaron Seidlitz
SPORTS REPORTER

Taking after the Big Ten, the Ohio Valley Conference has a conference schedule in place that shakes things up as the teams enter the second half of the season.

In the first part of the schedule many of the teams in the OVC play against each other twice in a short amount of team, and both teams travel to the other's arena.

The opportunity this kind of schedule provides early in the conference schedule is the fact that many of the teams will learn each other's strengths and weaknesses after they play each other the first time. Thus, when they play each other the second time in about a week, the memories are still fresh in preparation for the team.

The drawback is that once the first half of the schedule is done, the rest of the games are against teams that are not familiar with each other. That means that each team has to prepare all over again for an unfamiliar foe.

"We haven't seen about six of the teams in the OVC yet this season," Eastern coach Rick Samuels said. "I think its nice to see everybody before you play them again, but right now we will be playing a few teams we haven't seen yet like Samford and Morehead State."

That is especially true for Eastern in their next two upcoming games. Both games will be on the road and at the two newest schools who have joined the OVC, Samford and Jacksonville State.

Currently Samford and Jacksonville State stand sixth and ninth in the conference, but supply contrasting styles of play that could prove difficult for Eastern to prepare for.

"I'm concerned when we go down there in any situation, but it takes a lot of focus from our guys to learn to play against both systems," Samuels said. "Samford is effective slowing the game down and playing a Princeton style offense, while Jacksonville State likes an up-tempo game and they put full-court press on all game."

The Panthers, who currently

Men's Basketball Standings		
	OVC	OVERALL
Austin Peay	7-0	10-7
Murray State	5-1	15-3
Morehead State	4-2	9-8
Tennessee Tech	3-3	9-8
Eastern Kentucky	3-3	8-9
Samford	3-3	8-9
Tennessee State	3-3	4-13
Southeast Missouri	2-4	9-8
Jacksonville State	2-5	9-9
Tennessee Martin	1-5	6-12
Eastern Illinois	1-5	3-13

Saturday's Results

Austin Peay 54, Southeast Missouri 52
Eastern Kentucky 95, Samford 86 (2 ot)

Tennessee Tech 84, Eastern Illinois 67
Morehead State 89, Jacksonville State 81
Murray State 84, Tennessee State 78

Tuesday's Matchup

Austin Peay at Tennessee Tech

Thursday's Matchups

Eastern Illinois at Samford
Eastern Kentucky at Murray State
Austin Peay at Tennessee State
Morehead State at Tennessee-Martin
Southeast Missouri at Jacksonville State

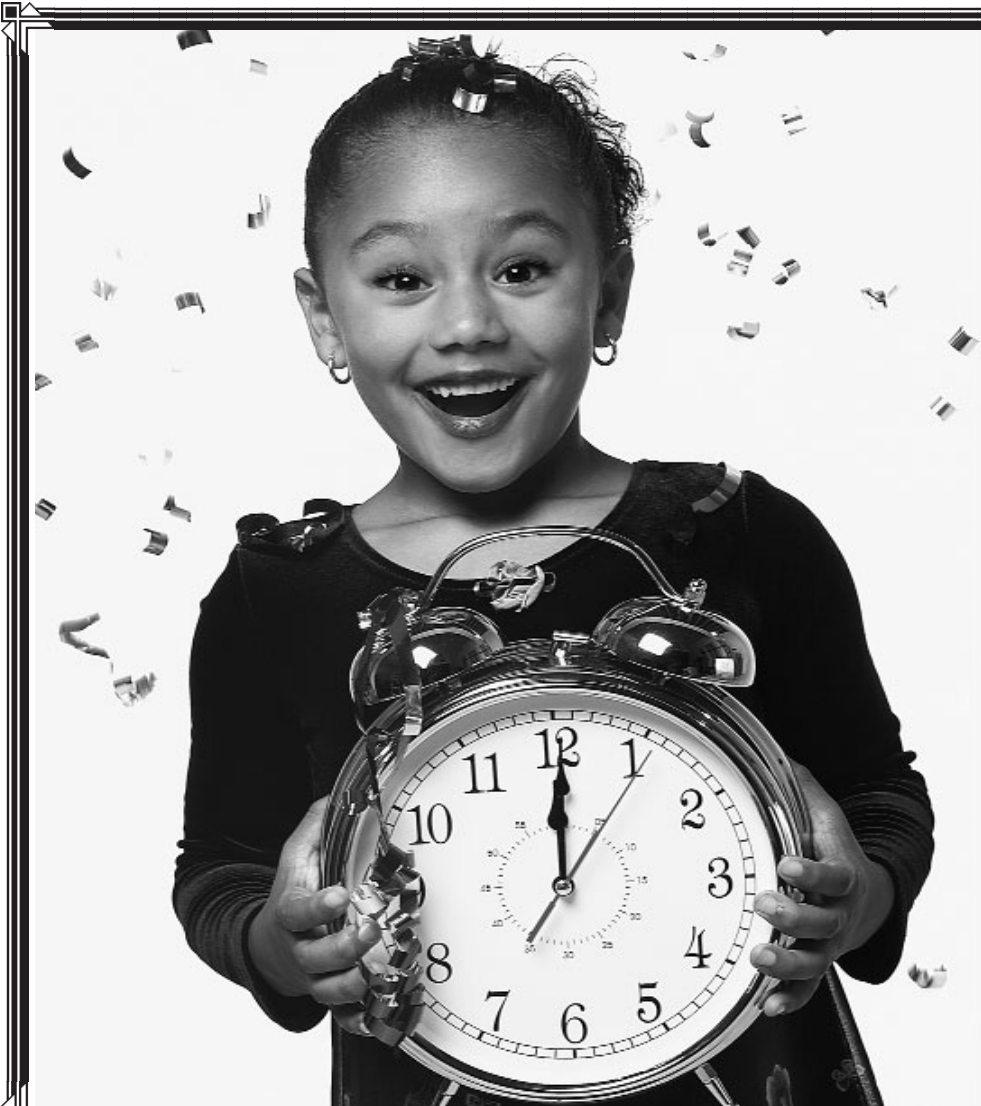
are last in the OVC with only one win in five chances, will need to prepare for both teams in a short amount of time.

When they prepare they will have been focusing more on the defensive side of the floor as they will be playing zone most of the time against Samford.

On the offensive end Eastern will be practicing to break Jacksonville State's pressure defense. The last time the Panthers had to break pressure defense, they could not keep up with Tennessee State.

"Right now, we have to do two things before the upcoming games," Samuels said. "We have to learn to focus more throughout the game because our Achilles heal has been teams turning up the intensity on us and we can't answer them.

"Secondly, we need to pick up the pace on defense, especially for the next couple of games that is what we need to improve on."



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OVC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Eastern surprising poll setters

By Matthew Stevens
SPORTS EDITOR

The prognosticators picked Eastern to finish sixth in the pre-season poll and they may have underestimated the Panthers this year.

After upsetting the dominant Austin Peay team in Clarksville, Eastern head coach Linda Wunder is certainly looking positively toward February and March. "It was just huge for us to win at Austin Peay and there's some positives about the split on the road last week," Wunder said.

Eastern gave up a three-point lead at half-time to fall to Tennessee Tech 78-64 Sunday.

Wunder was able to name at least three players that she felt performed well last weekend and hopes these performances will continue.

"I thought Megan Casad, Megan Scaggs and Janelle Cazy played really well and tough against Tennessee Tech," Wunder said.

The Panthers coach also put to rest any controversy about sophomore guard Megan Sparks and how the Mattoon native has had her role changed to the crucial sixth man. Wunder stated that she relies on Sparks every night for instant energy off the bench.

"I need somebody off the bench who can come in and do a lot of things including score," Wunder said. "Megan is that type of player."

The Panthers now prepare for an unknown challenge on the road as they take on the new Alabama Ohio Valley Conference foes Samford and Jacksonville State.

Eastern has never played either



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Junior guard Sarah Riva looks over the top of a defender for a teammate to pass the ball to. Riva and the Panthers surprised many by handing OVC power Austin Peay its first conference loss in 26 games.

of the two schools but feels the momentum needs to carry over to the Crimson state.

"We need to get at least a split in this road trip too," Wunder said. "Our schedule may give us an advantage down the stretch but we

have to play well."

The two Megans have really provided a big lift offensively for the Panthers and, according to their coach, are two more threats in the lineup.

"Megan Casad was left open and

if you do that, she's gonna knock down that shot," Wunder said. "Megan Scaggs really had a great game with a double-double (17 points, 10 rebounds).

Eastern is currently ninth in the OVC standings but is one game



Women's Basketball Standings

	OVC	OVERALL
Jacksonville	5-1	11-5
Austin Peay	5-1	11-6
Tennessee Tech	4-2	8-8
Eastern Kentucky	4-2	8-9
Southeast Missouri	3-3	8-9
Murray State	3-3	6-10
Tennessee-Martin	3-3	6-10
Morehead State	3-3	6-11
Eastern Illinois	2-4	5-12
Samford	1-5	8-9
Tennessee State	0-6	1-15

Monday's Results

Jacksonville State 83, Savannah State 44

Tuesday's Matchups

Austin Peay at Tennessee Tech

Thursday's Matchups

Eastern at Samford

SEMO at Jacksonville State

Eastern Kentucky at Murray State

Morehead State at Tennessee-Martin

Austin Peay at Tennessee State

away from fifth place and could be preparing to make a run at a home conference tournament game by the end of the year.

"We've come out OK on the road so far even though we wanted to pull Sunday's game out," Wunder said. "We are unsure about what we might see this weekend but we have done it before."

Start:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The win over Saint Louis meant a lot to Holzgrafe who was an assistant coach at Saint Louis for two years before joining the Eastern staff in 2001.

"When I first came to Eastern, Saint Louis was a program that was ahead of us but to beat a team I used to coach and against many of the kids I recruited was a great experience," Holzgrafe said. "It took a great team effort to win."

The women, who finished last season 13-7, and 5-2 in the Ohio Valley Conference, were shut out 7-0 against the Redbirds in their only meet of the weekend.

Illinois State began the day by winning all three of their doubles matches and in the singles competition won all six flights to walk away with the impressive victory.

The Panther women will next be in action this Saturday as the team travels to Columbia, Mo., for an afternoon tilt with the Missouri Tigers. Holzgrafe will be looking for a better showing against Mizzou.

"The women are struggling they need to come together," Holzgrafe said. "Right now they pale in comparison to the way the men are playing."

Gilbert:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Chris Heatherington, defensive tackle Dana Stubblefield, defensive end Chris Cooper and linebacker Bill Romanowski took some of the heat away from a 4-12 season that saw Raider Nation go from the penthouse to the outhouse in one season.

Not to mention who are the leaders on this team that Payton would've been in charge of? Receivers Jerry Rice and Tim Brown are quickly showing their age and should avoid further embarrassment and retire soon. Quarterback Rich Gannon will never return to his MVP season of 2002. Cornerback Charles Woodson is disgruntled and upset with the franchise. That leaves the Raiders with unproven quarterback Marques Tuiasosopo and wideout Jerry Porter as the hope for the future.

This is not exactly the situation rec-

ommended for a would-be rookie head coach like Payton. The Raiders are on the slippery slope, and I think Davis' antics last week will be a blessing for Payton.

Reason number two is simply the "Big Tuna." While Payton doesn't get to run a program just yet, he heads back to Dallas as the quarterbacks coach and the assistant head coach to the great Bill Parcells.

Next season, when more coaching vacancies open up it will look pretty impressive when Payton puts down a two-time Super Bowl winner as a reference. Many of today's most successful coaches including former "Tuna Helper" Bill Belichick worked under Parcells. Throw in Patriots offensive coordinator Charlie Weis, New York Giants coach Tom Coughlin and former New York Jets coach Al Groh as aides of Parcells and it's very noticeable Payton is in good company.

Now that Sean Payton is a household

name after the Davis fiasco owners will come calling for him when jobs open next year. Even though Payton isn't making \$1.5 million, as he would as Raiders coach, the grass will be greener for him next year.

Despite receiving a vote of confidence from the organization, it's possible Minnesota Vikings coach Mike Tice could be out of a job if the Vikings struggle. After the Tennessee Titans failure in the playoffs against New England, news broke that Jeff Fisher could be ousted with another playoff collapse. Payton would be in much better shape to succeed if he landed in Minnesota with Daunte Culpepper and Randy Moss or in Tennessee with Steve McNair and Justin McCareins than the dead end starring at him in Oakland.

Good things will come for Payton in the future years. Even though he's not leading a franchise currently, his time to "just win Baby" will come soon enough.

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THURSDAY	W Basketball at Samford	5 p.m.
	M Basketball at Samford	7 p.m.
FRIDAY	Swimming at IUPUI	5 p.m.

MEN'S TENNIS



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Senior C.J. Weber serves at Darling Courts. Weber and doubles partner senior Brandon Blankenbaker defeated Illinois State's N o. 1 doubles team 8-3.

Panthers off to split start

By Michael Gilbert
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The Eastern men's tennis team opened its spring season last weekend splitting a pair of road matches against Illinois State and Saint Louis.

The men dropped their opener against Illinois State but rebounded to defeat Saint Louis less than 48 hours later.

The Panthers started off sharp as Brandon Blankenbaker and C.J. Weber defeated the Illinois State No. 1 doubles team 8-3. However, the Panthers weren't able to pick up the team point by winning the remaining doubles matches as ISU's duo of Alban Renard and Chris Cozad defeated Charles LeVaque and Colin Priestner. In the deciding match Ben

Cappuccitti and Tom Link bested Eastern's Ryan Blankenbaker and Brandon Lenfert 8-2 to take the doubles point.

Every Panther but Weber struggled in the singles matches as Eastern lost five of the six contests. In the No. 1 singles match, Weber defeated Cappuccitti 6-2,6-3, but no other Panther followed the seniors lead as all lost in straight sets.

Despite the loss, Panthers head coach Brian Holzgrafe said the opening meet wasn't all about wins and losses, especially when facing a solid team like Illinois State.

"As a coach, early on I'm looking for some intensity to set the tone for the season," Holzgrafe said. "Illinois State was definitely one of the tougher teams on the schedule, but (the Eastern) boys played very hard."

The men showed the intensity Holzgrafe was looking for in their next meet against Saint Louis. Eastern opened up winning the first three singles matches highlighted by Weber's three set victory over Ikaikia Jobe 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

"C.J. Weber is just incredible," Holzgrafe said. "He's 2-0 and has beaten each team's top player including Jobe from Saint Louis who is a national ranked player."

Blankenbaker and LeVaque followed Weber's lead as each picked up three set winners over Thomas Kwong and Lance Vodicka, respectively.

The Panthers were able to edge the Billikens 4-3 in overall points as Eastern won two of the three doubles matches to obtain the doubles point and the victory.

SEE START ♦ Page 11



TEEN' OFF
Mike Gilbert
ASSOCIATE SPORTS
EDITOR

Oakland isn't a good fit for Payton

"Just win Baby!" Apparently Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis didn't believe Eastern alumni Sean Payton could do the above when they played a figurative game of he said/she said last week.

For whatever reason you want to pick (Payton turned down the job or Davis never offered the Raiders position to Payton) Eastern's second favorite son behind Tony Romo won't be patrolling the sidelines for the Silver and Black.

It certainly would've been remarkable for a small school like Eastern to watch one of their famous former Panthers be named head coach. Not to mention, Payton could've battled fellow Eastern alum Mike Shanahan twice a year as the Raiders and Denver Broncos meet in the AFC West.

But there are two reasons students and Charleston residents shouldn't be disappointed former Washington Redskins coach and Miami Dolphins offensive coordinator Norv Turner received the job Payton may have coveted.

The first glaring reason for Payton to stay out of Oakland is the future of the team. I realize, with the exception of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2002, when an organization fires a coach there are problems with the team and the new boss shouldn't expect to walk in and take the team to the Super Bowl. With this being said, Oakland was probably the worst job on the market.

Say what you want about the Arizona Cardinals' outlook, but the Raiders are going nowhere fast. The team has been in turmoil since the soap opera story involving center Barret Robbins at last year's Super Bowl. The drug subpoena sent to Robbins, running back Tyrone Wheatley, fullback

SEE GILBERT ♦ Page 11

Mattoon tailback not looking to run far from home

D.J. Walker

Height: 6'
Position:
High School:
Honors:

Weight: 190 lbs
Tailback
Mattoon H.S.
All-Area Team
All-Coles County Team

DESIRED SCHOOLS
Eastern
Illinois State
Savannah State
Southwest Missouri State
Southeast Missouri State

COACH'S COMMENTS
"He's such a great player simply because of his intensity"

Gerald Temples,
Matton H.S. football coach

By Matthew Stevens
SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern may soon land argueably one of the best high school football prospects in the area, and they didn't have to go far to sign him.

Sources have confirmed Mattoon High School tailback D.J. Walker has narrowed his list of possible schools down to five.

Walker was unavailable for comment. The All-Area tailback will decide between Eastern, Illinois State, Savannah State, Southwest Missouri and Southeast Missouri.

"I don't know where he's gonna go but he'll make someone an awful good football team," Mattoon head football coach Gerald Temples said.

It was reported the University of Arkansas was contacting Walker. The Razorbacks quarterback coach is former Eastern offensive coordinator Roy Wittke, who still has ties to the Coles County area.

The 6 foot, 190-pound Walker ran for over 2,000 yards and easily topped double-digits in touchdowns during the 2003 IHSA 5A football season, anchoring the Green Wave rushing attack all the way to the state semi-finals of the playoffs. Walker had over 100 yards in each of the first three playoffs and a touchdown in every game.

"The young man wants to win so badly that the other guys just have to feed off that desire," Temples said.

The contest that put the local product on the state map was a second-round performance that included 223 yards and three touchdowns against 5A top-seed Belleville Althoff, which led to a 56-14 blowout.

"He is such a great player simply because of his intensity," Temples said after the contest.

Eastern may have an edge over Walker's list of finalists because the campus location is a neighboring community.

"Proximity may be part of his decision,"

Temples said. "Whether his parents want to be close enough to go to all of his games."

Temples, Matoon High School's athletic director, considers Walker to be one of best tailbacks in Green Wave history. Temples has just told Walker to concentrate on academics and comfortablity when deciding on a university.

"Football will always be there for D.J., so it comes down to finding a school that he feels comfortable with," Temples said.

Reports surfaced during the fall football season that Walker was being contacted and recruited heavily by Northern Illinois but talks between the Huskies and Walker have broken off.

According to sources, NIU was interested in Walker playing strong safety instead lining up in the backfield.

Signing day is Feb. 2 and its during that afternoon head coach Bob Spoo and assistants will announce to the media its 2004 recruiting class.